

Current Class: CONFIDENTIAL  
Current Handling: n/a

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E5

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BOGOTA 17562 01 OF 02 231859Z  
ACTION ARA-00

INFO	LOG-00	ADS-00	INR-07	SS-00	CIAE-00	H-01	NSCE-00
	NSAE-00	HA-09	L-03	TRSE-00	PM-10	PA-01	OMB-01
	INM-07	INRE-00	USIE-00	DEAE-00	SP-02	SNP-01	C-01
	PRS-01	DS-01	SCT-02	P-02	T-01	/050 W	
				-----300315 231948Z /44			

P 231911Z NOV 88  
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1360  
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS  
SECDEF WASHDC

RELEASED IN PART  
B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BOGOTA 17562

SOUTHCOM FOR POLAD

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PINS, PGOV, PHUM, SNAR, CO  
SUBJECT: PEACE COUNSELOR ON GUERRILLAS AND SEGOVIA  
MASSACRE

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY:

[REDACTED] SPOKE TO VISITING ARA/AND DESK OFFICER  
PHILLIP FRENCH AND POLCOUNS ON NOVEMBER 17. HE SAID  
THE KEY VARIABLE IN THE GROWTH OF THE FARC AND THE ELN  
HAVE BEEN THEIR ABILITY TO RAISE FINANCES. THE FARC,  
HE SAID, HAS SUCCESSFULLY RAISED MILLIONS FROM THE  
NARCOTICS TRADE; THE ELN THROUGH EXTORTION FROM OIL  
COMPANIES, FROM THOSE BUSINESSES WHICH SUB CONTRACT  
FROM THEM, AND THROUGH INSURANCE PAYOFFS FROM  
KIDNAPPING. THE EPL AND M-19 ARE SMALL AND LESS ACTIVE  
BECAUSE THEY HAVE BEEN LESS SUCCESSFUL IN RAISING  
FINANCES. [REDACTED] EXPECTS CURRENTLY HIGH LEVELS  
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B1

B1

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PAGE 02 BOGOTA 17562 01 OF 02 231859Z

OF GUERRILLA ATTACKS TO TAPER OFF AND GIVE WAY TO  
POLITICAL DEMANDS FOR DIALOGUE.

3. HE RECOGNIZED THAT THE BARCO PEACE PLAN WOULD NOT

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: APPEALS REVIEW PANEL  
APPEAL ACTION: ORIGINAL DECISION UPHELD  
REASON(S): B1, 1.4(B), 1.4(D)  
DATE/CASE ID: 11 MAR 2005 200400772

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L MILLS  
DATE/CASE ID: 28 APR 2004 200400772

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RESOLVE THE GUERRILLA PROBLEM AND SAID ITS REAL INTENT IS TO "DELEGITIMIZE" THE GUERRILLAS. [REDACTED] GAVE A READOUT ON HIS PREVIOUS DAY'S VISIT TO THE ANTIOQUIAN TOWN OF SEGOVIA [REDACTED]

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END SUMMARY.

#### GUERRILLAS

4. [REDACTED] TOLD VISITING COLOMBIAN DESK OFFICER AND POLICONS THAT THE GROWTH IN THE ABILITY OF THE ELN AND THE FARC TO CARRY OUT THEIR CURRENT HIGH RATE OF ATTACKS IS A FUNCTION OF THEIR ABILITY TO RAISE FUNDS. HE SAID THE ELN EARNED MILLIONS OF DOLLARS OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS THROUGH EXTORTING MONEY FROM PETROLEUM COMPANIES. HE AGREED THAT OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM DID NOT PAY EXTORTION BUT THAT ALL OIL COMPANIES SUB-CONTRACT, AND THE SUB-CONTRACTORS OFTEN ARE FORCED TO PAY A "TAX" TO THE ELN. INSURANCE POLICIES AGAINST KIDNAPPING ARE ANOTHER EASY SOURCE OF INCOME FOR THE ELN BECAUSE THE GUERRILLAS KNOW HOW MUCH THE INSURANCE COMPANIES ARE WILLING TO PAY. HE DID NOT MENTION AN INCOME FIGURE FROM THIS SOURCE. THE FARC, HE SAID, IS SELF SUFFICIENT AND HAS EARNED ITS SUBSTANTIAL RESOURCES FROM ITS INVOLVEMENT IN THE NARCOTICS TRADE.

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5. [REDACTED] DOUBTED THE GUERRILLAS COULD SUSTAIN THEIR CURRENT HIGH LEVEL OF ACTION. NO GUERRILLA GROUP, HE SAID, REGARDLESS OF RESOURCES OR NUMBERS OF

B1

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PAGE 03 BOGOTA 17562 01 OF 02 231859Z

PEOPLE COULD SUSTAIN SUCH A HIGH RATE OF ACTIVITY. [REDACTED] THERE WERE 60 GUERRILLA BOMBING ATTACKS IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS. HE THOUGHT THE GUERRILLAS WOULD SOON INCREASE THEIR DEMANDS FOR A DIALOGUE WITH THE GOVERNMENT AS A COVER FOR REDUCING THEIR ARMED ATTACKS. IN THIS WAY THEY CAN SHOW AN ABILITY TO TURN THE VIOLENCE ON AND OFF AT WILL.

B1

#### THE BARCO PEACE PLAN

6. THE GOC IS PERFECTLY AWARE THAT THE BARCO PEACE PLAN WILL NOT RESOLVE THE GUERRILLA PROBLEM, [REDACTED] RATHER ITS INTENT IS TO "DELEGITIMIZE" THE GUERRILLAS; THAT IS, TO SHOW THAT ALL THE GUERRILLAS WANT IS TO ATTAIN POWER THROUGH ARMED SUBVERSION. MORE

B1

B1

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AND MORE COLOMBIANS ARE NOW BECOMING CONVINCED OF THIS,

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7. [REDACTED] WHY THE MILITARY WAS NOT MORE AGGRESSIVE GIVEN THE GOVERNMENT'S BELIEF THAT THE GUERRILLAS WILL NOT BE OVERCOME UNTIL THEY ARE CONVINCED THAT THE ONLY OPTION IS MILITARY DEFEAT. HE REPLIED THAT BY DEFINITION COUNTER GUERRILLA WARFARE IS DEFENSIVE. IN THE URABA REGION, FOR EXAMPLE, THERE ARE NO GUERRILLA BASES THAT CAN BE ATTACKED. RATHER, THE GUERRILLAS MIX WITH THE PEASANTS AND THE WORKERS. LA URIBE, THE NOTORIOUS HEADQUARTERS OF THE FARC, IS MORE MYTH THAN REALITY, HE CONTENDED. FARC LEADERS AND SOLDIERS MOVE ABOUT THIS MOUNTAINOUS REGION MAKING THEM HARD TO FIND AND MAKING IT IMPOSSIBLE TO SIMPLY DESTROY THE HEADQUARTERS THROUGH BOMBING ATTACKS.

B1

THE SEGOVIA MASSACRE

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PAGE 01 BOGOTA 17562 02 OF 02 231900Z  
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INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BOGOTA 17562

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8. IN DISCUSSING THE NOVEMBER 11 MASSACRE OF 42 PEOPLE IN SEGOVIA, [REDACTED] TO DEFINE WHAT HE AND OTHER

B1

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GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS MEAN WHEN THEY USE THE WORD "PARAMILITARY." HE REPLIED THAT IN THE COLOMBIAN CONTEXT IT MEANS A "FALSE MILITARY"; THAT UNLIKE ARGENTINA AND CENTRAL AMERICA, PARAMILITARY GROUPS HERE DO NOT NECESSARILY HAVE ANY CONNECTION TO GOVERNMENT SECURITY FORCES. POLCOUNS SAID THAT THAT WAS A DISTINCTION LOST ON MANY INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS GROUPS.

9. [REDACTED] WAS CONVINCED THAT A RIGHTIST GROUP WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE KILLINGS. HE THEORIZED THAT THE ASSASSINS MURDERED MOSTLY LIBERALS AND A FEW CONSERVATIVES IN ORDER TO  
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B1

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PAGE 02 BOGOTA 17562 02 OF 02 231900Z

INCREASE POLARIZATION BETWEEN THESE TRADITIONAL PARTIES AND THE LEFTIST PATRIOTIC UNION THAT RUNS CITY HALL. BEYOND THAT [REDACTED] THAT THE EVENTS SURROUNDING THE KILLINGS ARE STILL UNCLEAR PENDING THE OUTCOME OF THE ONGOING INVESTIGATION. ASKED WHY THE POLICE DID NOT RESPOND TO THE KILLINGS, HE WOULD ONLY SAY IT WAS COWARDICE, COMPLICITY, OR THAT THE POLICE THOUGHT THEY WERE UNDER ATTACK AND STAYED IN THEIR WELL PROTECTED "CUARTEL."

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10. COMMENT: DESPITE THE RASH OF GUERRILLA ACTIVITY OF LATE [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] HE APPEARED CONFIDENT THAT, AS HE HAS TOLD US ON OTHER OCCASIONS, THE COUNTRY WAS GOING THROUGH AN EXTREMELY TRYING TIME, BUT IN THE LONG TERM WOULD RESOLVE ITS PROBLEMS OF NARCO AND EXTORTION FINANCED GUERRILLA VIOLENCE. (THIS MESSAGE WAS NOT CLEARED BY MR. FRENCH.)  
MCNAMARA

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